



**Candidate Questionnaire for
San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee
Primary Election, June 7, 2016**

Please return this questionnaire electronically to contact_us@phdemclub.org **no later than Sunday, April 4th**. Candidates who do not return the questionnaire by the due date will not be invited to appear at our April 12th endorsement meeting. Questionnaires will be made available to our members online.

Candidate name: Michael Edward Grafton
Contact person: Michael Edward Grafton
Email address: michael.e.grafton@gmail.com
Phone number: (415) 647-3392
Web site: None

Please write a brief response (≤ 200 words) to each question.

1. Why are you running for the DCCC and what do you hope to accomplish if elected or re-elected?

From what I understand, the basic responsibilities of the DCCC is voter outreach and registration and formal Democratic Party endorsements. The committee is also involved in discussing resolutions that will eventually be passed through those government bodies with the political and fiduciary power to either reject or follow up on the resolutions.

Outreach: My primary goals would be (1) to have the monthly meetings in each of the eleven supervisorial districts, on a rotating basis, and (2) to designate one 16 to 18 year old member each from Assembly District 17 and Assembly District 19 to be able to vote, with a mentor, with the full committee.

Most registered Democrats have no idea what the DCCC is, its role, and its influence. Rather than have the monthly meetings down at the state office

building, the committee should meet locally, so that busy constituents can schedule at least one time per year to get to meet the members.

High school students can now pre-register to vote at age 16. In order to fully engage students, and give them a sense of the awesome responsibility that goes with elected office, we should be able to have one voting member each, age 16 through voting age 18, to sit on the committee as a member with full voting rights. Since engagement at a young age is crucial for long-term engagement, this will provide opportunities for civic engagement, and allow the SF DCCC to take seriously the concerns of teenagers.

2. Please describe your current and past community activism.

I am currently the political action committee chairperson of San Francisco for Democracy, which is the non-partisan offshoot of Democracy for America, founded by Howard Dean during his campaign for President in 2004.

I was a proxy for the progressive end of the Democratic Party spectrum for the statewide party conventions in 2013, 2014, and 2015 and am sometimes involved with the ten or so caucuses with which I have membership.

My involvement with other activism tends to be on a "if they ask me, I will show up" basis, for fundraising and other activities. I take classes to prepare for my "second career" when I retire from UC San Francisco as an accounting manager, and work long hours at my job, so I do not advertise what I have done, since others have a much deeper commitment that I can at this point in time.

3. Would you support closing the campaign finance loophole that allows candidates running for their party's Central Committee to raise unlimited funds, while other candidates for local elected office are limited to \$500 per donor? Why or why not?

Not only would I support closing this campaign finance loophole, but I would also want to assess whether or not elected office holders should be elected to the SF DCCC at all. Right now, the Board of Supervisors can run for the SF DCCC, and probably due to name recognition get elected, whereas community activists might find it more difficult, especially if the activism is within a specific neighborhood. I think that the Board of Supervisors should be treated, at minimum, as *ex officio* members, just like those previously elected to the county central committee who have been elected to other local, state, and federal offices.

4. Please name the 3 endorsements of which you are most proud.

This is my first time running for political office, so I have no endorsements at this time.

If I did have endorsements, I would like them to come from Tom Ammiano or Mark Leno, since I align politically with both of them pretty closely, so would feel that the endorsement was actually "earned", and not just a political chit.

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5. Please indicate, and explain, your position on the following past ballot propositions.

- Proposition G (2014), Additional Transfer Tax on Residential Property Sold Within 5 Years of Purchase

○ Supported Opposed _____ Why?

Since the city has not figured out how to upzone without ruining the character of the neighborhoods, and since land is at a premium, property values will almost always escalate, which means that there will be more incentives to sell more frequently, which, when combined with limited affordable housing stock, will drive up rents. There is such a mad rush to flip properties, and that is driving up the overall value of properties, to the extent that San Francisco may turn into another Paris or London.

- Proposition F (2015), Short-Term Residential Rentals

○ Supported Opposed _____ Why?

6. The population of SF is up, but Democratic Party registration and turnout have mostly been down in recent years. What specifically will you do to improve the Party's registration efforts and organization in District 10?

I think that the SF DCCC should have at least one monthly meeting in District 10, and plan to advertise that it will register voters prior to the meeting. This will not only increase voter registration, but will also induce some of the less productive SF DCCC members to get more involved with this very important charge. Right now, there are only a few of the members who actively register new voters, often at swearing in ceremonies (which is a good idea, if only for economies of scale and the excitement that occurs at those ceremonies), but it is unclear whether there is a formal schedule for doing a registration drive, and whether the members are expected to fill in slots during these drives. If the SF DCCC decides to have one teenager each from Assembly District 17 and Assembly District 19 on the committee, it could decide to have these individuals coordinate registration efforts during monthly meetings, as part of their apprenticeships.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to public service. Pending timely receipt of your questionnaire, we look forward to seeing you at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House on April 12th.

Executive Committee, Potrero Hill Democratic Club